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Security Council

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Letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of the Government of Iraq on the thirty-first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999) (S/2011/373) (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al-Bayati**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. With regard to the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/373) on the issue of missing Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwaiti property, paragraph 14 of which addresses the Iraqi Government's determination to resolve the issue of missing Kuwaiti property, we would like to recall that Iraq has indeed demonstrated its resolve to find a solution to this issue, a fact that was noted in the Secretary-General's previous reports. An example of that resolve was the circulation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a letter to all ministries and other institutions requesting that they should report any relevant information or documents that belong to the State of Kuwait. Moreover, an advertisement was run in Iraqi newspapers calling on citizens who might have information concerning those documents or property to so inform the authorities. Those actions demonstrate the Iraqi Government's determination to resolve this issue. The Ministry of Industry indicated in response that it was aware of property that belongs to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Industry. Although the Kuwaiti side was informed of this in January 2010, we have yet to receive a response as to what should be done with that property.

2. With regard to paragraph 19 of the report, concerning the establishment of a ministerial committee to clarify the fate of the Kuwaiti national archives, it should be noted that there are two such committees. The first is a high-level ministerial committee chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and having as members the Ministers of Oil, Finance and the Interior. This committee, which is responsible for all outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, may invite any other relevant party to participate in its work, if necessary. The other committee was formed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is responsible for returning any Kuwaiti property and archives. In addition to the above-mentioned committees, the Iraqi-Kuwaiti ministerial committee began its work in April 2011.

3. With regard to paragraph 20, concerning the extension of the High-level Coordinator's mandate, we do not support the extension of Mr. Tarasov's mandate because of the existence of the aforementioned committees responsible for the issue of property and the archives, as well as the Tripartite Commission and the Technical Subcommittee, both of which are responsible for the issue of missing Kuwaitis.